Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01832 101637Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
/038 W
----------029194 101701Z /47
P R 101142Z AUG 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY
USS VREELAND PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
ADMIN COMIDEASTFOR
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1832

ROME/NAIROBI PLS PASS AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, US, SO
SUBJ: PORT VISIT

REF: MOGADISCIO 1831 DTG 101140Z AUG 78

1. PER REF, EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON SOMALI NAVY COMMANDER COL. MOHAMED OMAR OSMAN AUGUST 10 TO DISCUSS VREELAND PORT VISIT. IN ADDITION TO PROGRAM DISCUSSED REF, SOMALIS RAISED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. DUE TO "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES" SOMALIS ARE UNABLE TO RESPOND TO SALUTES. ACCORDINGLY, NO SALUTES WILL BE EXCHANGED.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01832 101637Z

B. THE SOMALIS WILL MAKE NORMAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE PORT AND IN TOWN. THEY REQUEST THAT NO ARMS BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SHIP. THE SOMALIS DO NOT OBJECT TO HAVING A SHORE PATROL IN COMPANY OF SOMALI MILITARY POLICE, WHICH WILL BE PREPARED TO ESTABLISH PATROLS AS NECESSARY.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

C. ACCORDING TO COL. MOHAMED, NAVAL SHIPS VISITING IN THE PAST (I.E. PRESUMABLY SOVIET NAVY SHIPS) DO NOT NORMALLY PERMIT THE PILOT TO BOARD. RATHER, THE PILOT FOLLOW IN THE TUG. THE SOMALIS WILL ARRANGE FOR THE SERVICES OF A PILOT IF DESIRED.

D. SHIPS IN PORT ARE NOT PERMITTED TO USE LONG-RANGE RADIOS. THE SOMALIS WILL NOT OBJECT TO THE USE OF VHF SHIP-TO-SHORE AND SHORT-RANGE VHF EQUIPMENT. A SEPARATE TELEGRAM FOLLOWS ON COMMUNICATIONS.

E. THE SOMALIS WILL CHECK ON THE AVAILABILITY OF MARINE DIESEL. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO PIPES INSTALLED IN PORT AND FUEL WOULD HAVE TO BE TRANSPORTED AND PUMPED FROM TRUCKS.

F. THE SOMALI NAVY WILL ARRANGE THROUGH THE NORMAL CIVILIAN SHIP CHANDLER FOR SUCH SUPPLIES AS MAY BE NEEDED. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SPECIFIC REQUESTS ASAP.

(SEE BELOW.)

2. THE VREELAND SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MOGADISCIO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 01832 101637Z

IS A CITY SIGNIFICANTLY LACKING IN FACILITIES AND AMENITIES. GENERALLY FOOD IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND QUALITY IS POOR (THERE HAVE BEEN NO POTATOES IN TOWN FOR MONTHS). WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE VREELAND NOT COUNT ON AVAILABILITY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF FRESH FOOD BEING AVAILABLE.

3. WE DO NOT AS YET KNOW THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE FUEL, NOR DO WE KNOW THE NUMBER OF TANKER TRUCKS AVAILABLE OR THEIR PUMPING CAPACITY. WE ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT FUEL MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, EITHER IN TERMS OF AVAILABILITY OR ABILITY TO PUMP. PLEASE BEAR THIS IN MIND IN SUBMITTING LOGREQS.

4. THE NEW PORT IN MOGADISCIO OPENED IN OCTOBER 1977. ACCORDING TO US MERCHANT MARINE MASTERS WHO HAVE VISITED MOGADISCIO IN 1978, LIMITED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORT IS AVAILABLE IN INTERNATIONAL PUB-LICATIONS AND CHARTS. THERE IS ONE ITALIAN PILOT WHO IS TRAINING SOMALI PILOTS, AND HE IS REGARDED AS COMPETENT BY MERCHANT MARINE MASTERS. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE PORT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

IS REQUIRED AND WHETHER THE SERVICES OF A PILOT ARE DESIRED ON BOARD THE VREELAND.

5. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THE VREELAND DESIRES, EITHER IN REGARD TO PORT SECURITY OR ON-SHORE SECURITY. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SHORE PATROL MAY NOT BE ARMED.

6. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIAISON WITH THE EMBASSY AND FOR OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION THE VREELAND DESIRES. WE WILL OF COURSE PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FORMAL CALLS TO BE PAID BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER, AS WELL AS ARRANGING FOR BUS
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PAGE 04 MOGADI 01832 101637Z

RENTAL FOR THE LIBERTY PARTY. WE ALSO PLAN TO HAVE AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE INTERPRETER (SOMALI) AVAILABLE AT THE PORT ON AUGUST 26 AND AUGUST 27.

7. THE EMBANTROL OFFICER FOR THIS VISIT IS CONSUL RICHARD ALLOCCA. MR. ALLOCCA WILL MEET THE VREELAND AT THE PORT ON COMING ALONGSIDE AND BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE LOCAL BRIEFING AT THAT TIME. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY WILL BE FORWARDING A CABLE CONTAINING BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE VREELAND FOR USE IN BRIEFING THE OFFICERS AND MEN ON MOGADISCIO.

8. PLEASE ADVISE ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR SUPPORT WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED.

9. REQUEST ACTION ADDEES ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE.
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20 Mar 2014
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